

Welcome Back Weekend

April 30 – May 2, 2010

Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs



WELCOME BACK to the Outdoors in 2010 at Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs!



The temperature is rising, the frogs are calling and the early wildflowers along our hiking trails signal that we're ready for you to enjoy a wide array of outdoor activities at our 24 state parks and 9 lakes. April 30 - May 2, 2010 is [Welcome Back Weekend](#). This is the perfect chance for wildlife watching, a night by a crackling campfire and a day or two to relax and escape a hectic world without traveling far from home. Load up the car or pack up the camper and join us. **Regular daily entrance to all state parks and reservoirs on Sunday, May 2 will be free.** Check out this schedule of activities, and see events happening every week at www.interpretiveservices.IN.gov.



Looking for a chance to get some exercise with friends (old and new) and enjoy the outdoors at the same time? Look for this symbol marking our Healthy Parks-Healthy People walks and fitness activities. Visit www.dnr.IN.gov/healthy for more information and ideas!

Brookville-Whitewater Memorial Complex

Saturday, May 1, 2010

- 11:00 AM Walk and Roll—come and walk, run, bike, rollerblade, or push a stroller with us on the paved Scenic Trail. Choose your own distance. (Scenic Trail Scenic Vista (Southern Trailhead) 
- 3:00 PM Whitewater Memorial State Park boat dock—"Float Your Boat"—bring your own canoe or kayak, or rent one of ours as we paddle beautiful Whitewater Lake. 
- 7:00 PM & 8:00 PM Mounds Campground Camp Store—Hayrides & Campfire—come and share the evening with your fellow campers, play games, and roast marshmallows. Please register in advance with the camp store. (\$3 per rider)


Sunday, May 2, 2010

- 3:00 PM Whitewater Memorial State Park Beach—Veterans' Commemoration—join us at the veterans' memorial at the Whitewater Beach as we pay respect for those who have served our country. A pitch-in supper will follow the commemoration at the Poplar Grove picnic shelter. Please bring your chairs and a covered dish to share.

Please note: events will be cancelled if there is inclement weather. Children under 8 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Brown County State Park

Saturday May 1

- 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Mountain bike clinic for families, youngsters at the nature center, sponsored by Hoosier Mountain Bike Association. 
- 10:00 am – 5:00 PM 4th Annual Morel Mushroom Festival . The park's annual Morel Mushroom Festival with sale and events. Visit <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/5784.htm> for details.
- 7:00 PM Return to the Wild – Birds of Prey at the Brown County State Park Nature Center Amphitheater.

Chain O'Lakes State Park

Saturday May 1

- 12:00 PM – 3:00 pm Scavenger Hunt: Pick up your list of items to search for at the main gate, campground, gate, or main office and go hunting! Bring your collected goodies to the Nature Center by 3:15 for validation and awarding of prizes.

Sunday May 2

- 10:00 AM Welcome Back Hike #1: Join the naturalist for a quick paced hike to warm up our hiking boots and spring spirits. This will be a 2-3 mile non-interpretive hike.
- 1:00 PM Welcome Back Hike #2: Join the naturalist on a gentle 2-mile hike to enjoy the early spring wildflowers of Chain O' Lakes State Park.



Charlestown State Park

Saturday, May 1

- 10:00 AM Spring Hike on Trail 1. Trail 1 is a moderate to rugged trail, with views of Fourteenmile Creek. This trail has particularly nice spring wildflowers, many of which will be in bloom.



Clifty Falls State Park

Saturday, May 1

- 10:00 AM Welcome Back Hike To The Heart Of It All! Get outside for a refreshing roadside woodland walk and easy upland trail hike. Enjoy new bird song... blooming beauty... and green as only spring can bring it. It's good for your heart so join us! Hour plus leisure walk starts and ends at Clifty Inn's "Nature Niche" in the main lobby.
- 2:00 - 3:30 PM Welcome Back Reception At Clifty Inn! You are invited to join our "Welcome Back" celebration on the sun deck of Clifty Inn overlooking the beautiful Ohio Valley! Staff members of Clifty Inn and Clifty Falls State Park will greet you with complimentary food, fun, treats... and a welcoming hand! So welcome back! ... join us for a few moments!
- 8:30 PM Welcome Back Bonfire! The official kick off to another season of outdoor enjoyment and relaxation begins with our May Day bonfire. Bring the kids, roast a marshmallow, share a bonfire story or two! Takes place at Clifty Inn's friendship fire ring overlooking the Ohio Valley.



Sunday, May 2

- 2:00 PM Friends In Friendly Places! Welcome back to Clifty... a world where you can still come face to face with the unexpected... a dawdling box turtle, a rippling rat snake! Discover the warm fuzzy facts and cold hearted folklore of these and other fascinating herptiles live at the Nature Center!

Falls of the Ohio State Park

Saturday, May 1

- 10:00 AM Trek the Levee Top Trail. Meet at the George Rogers Clark Home Site for a walk on this newly named, paved path to the Interpretive Center and back, totaling 3 miles.



Fort Harrison State Park

Saturday, May 1

- 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Homefront-Supporting Our Soldiers. This is part of the continuing series of Museum History seminars that feature activities that the lay-historian can enjoy. This month's seminar features how the average person can support our soldiers now at war from the home front. Meet at the Park Office/Visitor Center

Hardy Lake

Saturday May 1st

- 10:00 AM Get Healthy Hoosier Hike. Take a fitness hike and explore most of Hardy Lake's trail system. Wear appropriate hiking footwear and water. Please meet at the Amphitheater.
- 1:30 PM Healthy Campground Cooking. Join the Hardy Lake interpretive team to discover what makes a meal healthy and how you can make it happen even when camping. We will begin preparation of a healthy meal that everyone will get a chance to taste later in the day. Please meet at the Amphitheater
- 4:30 PM Healthy Campground Cooking Tasting Time! Lets see how our hard work paid off. Please meet at the Amphitheater.



Sunday May 2

- 10:00 AM Get Healthy Hoosiers One Mile Bike Ride. Lets peddle our way to being "IN Shape!" Please meet at the Main Office Parking Lot with your bike and helmet.
- 2:00 PM Food Pyramid Talk and Craft. The Government has recently adopted a new food guidance pyramid to aid everyone in making the right food choices. Let's explore this new guide and have a chance to build our own plan. Please meet at the Amphitheater.



Harmonie State Park

- Check out the Harmonie Hundred in the town of New Harmony on May 1-2, which includes routes for riding your bikes around Posey County, including Harmonie State Park. Pre-register at www.harmoniehundred.net or register on the day of the event, at New Harmony School. Fees are charged based on what events you participate in. This event is sponsored by New Harmony School. Harmonie State Park's Nature Center will be open and there will be a variety of activities planned.



Indiana Dunes State Park

Saturday May 1

- 10:00 AM Spring Swamp Stomp. Enjoy a spring stroll through the wetlands of Indiana Dunes. Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center for a look at the frogs, turtles, and birds that call this place home. We'll be out for about an hour. Join us!
- 2:00 PM Tour De Dunes. Experience the park by bike this afternoon. Bring your bicycle and meet the Naturalist at the Wilson Shelter for a tour through the park by bike. We'll make some stops to enjoy the scenery and other sights along the way.
- 8:00 PM Whooo Goes There...! You do on this creature of the night program! Meet the naturalist in the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at the owls that call Indiana Dunes home. We'll also venture outside (possible car pool) so we can try to "hoot" some up! Kids under 12, please bring a parent.



Sunday May 2

- 8:30 AM Early May Migration Join the Naturalist as we search our recently arriving feathered friends. We'll start at the Campground Gate and take an easy stroll through the Trail 2 woodlands. Bring binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours as we enjoy the spring birding bonanza.
- 10:00 AM Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids.
- 2:00 PM Indiana State Parks: 100 years of Fun! Come to the Nature Center for a peak at the new Indiana State Parks documentary celebrating our 100th anniversary coming up. Titled "Indiana State Parks: Treasures in your Backyard," this PBS production captures many of the early parks, such as the dunes. Total time approximately 50 minutes. Join us!



Lieber State Recreation Area (Cagles Mill Lake)

Saturday, May 1

- 10:00 AM Meet at the Hilltop Shelter for a “March to the Marsh”. Learn about reservoirs and some of the critters that live on the property. Approximate one mile walk with a steep hill.



Sunday, May 2

- 11:00 AM The Friends Of Cagles Mill Lake present Smokey Bear visiting the campground and the picnic areas. Get your cameras ready, and watch for “The Bear and The Gator”! REMEMBER, ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES!

Lincoln State Park

Saturday, May 1

- 8:00 AM Firetower Walk. We'll visit the firetower and get a birdseye view of the Lincoln sites. This difficult hike will last about 2 hours.
- 11:00 AM Neighborhood Walk. This walk will feature Abraham's familiar jaunts as a child. Come ready to do some pioneer chores. It's an easy hike, but the interpreter is not promising easy chores!



McCormick's Creek State Park

Saturday, May 1.

- Exercise for a good cause! Step out for the Morning 5K Run/Walk (Mag 7 Series Race), sponsored by Friends of McCormick's Creek State Park and Owen County Family YMCA to support youth programs. Registration information: 812-828-9622



All Weekend

- Bring the family for a Bird Watcher's Getaway at Canyon Inn in McCormick's Creek State Park. Hikes, activities, and bird mist netting for close-up experiences. Registration information: 812-829-4881.

Monroe Lake

- 10:00 AM Nature/fitness walk. Meet at the Whitetail Trailhead for this 2 miles moderate walk. It features two new bridges built last year by the YHCC program.



Mounds State Park

Saturday, May 1

- 10:00 AM Park Perimeter Hike: Join as we hike all of Trail 5 to get our hearts pumping and to view many of the parks unique features. *Meet at the Visitor Center Porch.*
- 1:00 -4:00 PM The Historic Bronnenbergs Open House: Come see the efforts of our Friends of Mounds State Park group. They been helping restore this 1840's and would love to share the story of the Bronnenberg family's legacy. Special 30-min tours each hour. Bronnenberg House.
- 7:00 PM The Lost of Mounds: Did you know there were two mounds near the campground? Join us on this short hike to discover these "lost" mounds. Meet at Campground Shower Building.



Sunday, May 2

- 1:00 – 4:00 PM Bronnenberg House Open: Come see the efforts of our Friends of Mounds State Park group. They been helping restore this 1840's and would love to share the story of the Bronnenberg family's legacy.
- 2:00 PM Spring Bloomers: The woodlands are full of life this spring season, and we'll go in search of some of the park's most beautiful wildflowers. *Meet at Visitor Center Porch.*

Ouabache State Park

Saturday, May 1

- 10:00 AM Jaunt along the Ouabache. Take a two mile walk, mostly on paved surfaces. Signage will be posted along the route.



O'Bannon Woods State Park

Saturday, May 1

- 11:00 AM Take a Walk with Forrest Gump. Come to the Nature Center where you can walk in a mile with our oxen as we condition them for the upcoming summer and learn how the pioneers got their exercise.
- 1:00 PM Access to Recreation. Learn about what our park and county has done to increase its accessibility needs with a short presentation and then walk our new one-mile loop trail to learn about how we constructed this new accessible feature.



Sunday, May 2

- 10:00 AM The Early Bird Gets the Worm! Walk to the park's iron bridge and listen along the way to the bird songs of the forest. We will meet at the campground gatehouse for this two mile hike and also find out about a beautiful parcel of land recently added to the park.



Patoka Lake

Saturday, May 1

- 10:00 AM QUEST Program. Kids & families of all ages, learn about this exciting new program as you earn points and take home memories of your public properties. Activities and knowledge about cultural & natural history add to your adventures. This weekly program takes place at the Visitor Center.
- 10:00 AM Fitness Trail. Enjoy a 2 mile round trip hike as we stop at some of the many fitness stations and try the exercise or activity. Fun for all ages! Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. Bring your preferred drinks and snacks. This is a statewide DNR celebration as we enjoy the season of SPRING! Meet at the modern campground's center shelterhouse
- 1:00 PM Moery Story. Hear some fascinating history and heritage as we enjoy a short walk from the Visitor Center to the newly reconstructed Moery Cabin. What was life like near Wickliffe in the late 1800s. Take a look at the old home of Jacob Moery.



Sunday, May 2

- 11:00 AM Insects or Bugs. Spring is a-buzz with bugs and insects. What is a true bug? What are some of the common insects around Patoka? Take a look as we stroll around the Visitor Center backyard garden and see what insects are out and about.
- 1:00 PM Red-tailed Hawks. Enjoy a close-up look at Patoka's non-releasable resident hawk as we explore the world of the daytime hunters or predators. What are red-tail hawks specialized tools for hunting other animals? Come to the Visitor Center and see and enjoy and learn about the fascinating world of raptors.
- 3:00 PM Creature Feature. Fur, feather, fins or fangs? What does today's special "guest" have as physical features for survival? How does it eat? What is it? Where does it live? Come and see at the nature center or Visitor Center.

Pokagon State Park

Friday, April 30

- 8:00 PM Sunset Stroll. Once you have registered at your campsite, or checked in to the Inn, join the park interpreter at the Campground Office Bulletin Board for a walk down to the main beach and along Trail 5. Hopefully the evening will be clear for a "sun-sational" view of the setting sun over Lake James. A flashlight is recommended if it's a late-night walk back to the campsite.



Saturday, May 1

- 9:00 AM Trail Nine and Hawk Hollow Trek. This is a great hike for those who enjoy Pokagon history and would like to get some good exercise! The hike will begin at the Potawatomi Inn, at the main entrance lobby. It will be last call for bathrooms as we head out over Trail 3 to get to Trail 9 where we will traverse Pokagon's most hilly terrain on our toughest trail, into Hawk Hollow. We call the trail moderately rugged on scale of trail types. The route will visit the charming Lake Lonidaw, then continue on Trail 3, across the entrance road and out to Trail 9. We'll do the big circle loop and return. Trail 9 goes out to the old "Pokagon Motel" site and winds back past some interesting CCC- built erosion control dams. You will also traverse boardwalks over some of the park's interesting wetland habitats. See natural and cultural features, get some good exercise, and get a great start on the summer season for 2010!



- 2:00 PM Garlic Mustard Pulling Party! Meet at the Nature Center Program Area for a quick overview of this invasive plant. We will then venture behind the building where we have been pulling this plant for years to see the impact of its removal on native plants; and will then continue our removal of this species. There will be a refreshment break and then a possible move to a new area for more fun pulling!

Sunday, May 2

- 8:00 AM The Early May Migration. It's our traditional Sunday morning hike leaving from the Inn Sun Deck. It's the peak of the bird migration! We'll check out the big lake, make our way along the wooded edges and down through the County Road marsh. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair of ours and join us for this 1 ½ hour bird search.

Potato Creek State Park

Saturday, May 1, 2010

- 9:00 AM Nature in a Breeze Walk. Did you know power walking burns twice as many calories as regular walking? Trail 1 is the perfect trail to enjoy in a breeze, so come along for some power walking fun as we explore nature while learning some helpful hints to make our walk more aerobic! 1 hour, meet at the nature center.
- 2:00 PM Bubble Trash! - Help Potato Creek today by picking up some litter! Then stop by the nature center to see a showcase of bubbles as you learn how some pieces of litter make great bubble makers for some summer family fun! 1 hour, meet at the nature center.



Sunday, May 2, 2010

- 10:00 AM Feeding Time - Stop by the nature center to watch all the animals eat their breakfast! 30 minutes.
- 1:00-3:00 PM Peppermint Loop Hiking Fun. Hike the Peppermint Loop trail by the nature center and answer all the questions posted along the trail correctly to receive a prize from the nature center. Start at the nature center.



Raccoon State Recreation Area (Cecil M. Harden Lake)

Saturday, May 1st

- 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Disc Golf. A temporary disc golf course will be set up at William Hill Picnic Area. For those unfamiliar with the game of disc golf, it is similar to regular golf only you use a specialized disc (Frisbee) rather than a ball and clubs. Discs will be available to borrow on a first come – first serve basis. The sport is designed to be enjoyed by people of all ages. This is your chance to try this fun activity and spend some quality time outdoors!

Shades State Park

Saturday, May 1

- 7:30 PM Leave No Trace: Fishing. Check out ways you can enjoy fishing and ensure that you leave nothing behind.
- 9:00 PM Night Hike & Owl Prowl. This walk starts at the Dell Shelter & includes owl calling!

Shakamak State Park

Friday, April 30

- 5:30 PM Evening Hike. Meet at the Saddle Barn parking lot for a one hour stroll.



Saturday, May 1

- 5:30 pm Canoe on Kickapoo. Meet at the Lake Kickapoo boat rental dock for a one hour canoe/kayak hike.



Spring Mill State Park

Friday, April 30

- 11:00 AM Dedication of Donaldson Woods Nature Preserve addition in honor of Father Damian Schmeltz, who served on the Natural Resources Commission and did research on Donaldson Woods for many years. Meet at the Twin Caves Parking Lot for the ceremony.

Saturday, May 1

- 11:00 AM Welcome Back... to the Wildflowers. We'll search out some of the "fleeting" flowers that brighten the spring with their blooms before disappearing for another year. Meet next to the playground in Butternut Picnic Area (45 min).
- 1:00 PM Welcome Back... to the Village – Join us for a guided walk through the Pioneer Village to explore the stories and the people behind the buildings. Meet at the Weaver's Cabin in the Pioneer Village (1 hr).
- 3:00 PM Welcome Back... to the Snakes – Snakes have now emerged from hibernation and are out and about in the park! This is your opportunity to get an up-close look at, and learn more about, some of the most commonly seen species. Nature Center (45 min).

Sunday, May 2

- 2:00 PM Wildflowers of Cave River Valley – Join us for a hike into the newest addition to Spring Mill State Park – Cave River Valley. This beautiful section of land, filled with caves, streams, and towering ridges, is home to some beautiful spring wildflowers. We'll hike into the valley and see how many flowers species we can find in bloom. Meet at Cave River Valley (1 hr 30 min).



Turkey Run State Park

Saturday, May 1

- 10:00 AM Help Feed Birds at the nature center.
- 10:30 AM Recycled Bubbles. This very active 1-hour program is for kids of all ages in front of the nature center.
- 2:00 PM Planetarium Program. Relax and enjoy this 40-minute night sky tour at the nature center.
- 3:00 PM Lusk Home Tour. Welcome to the grand opening weekend for the 2010 season! The 1-hour tour begins in the Home's cellar.
- 3:00 PM Leave No Trace: Fishing. Check out ways you can enjoy fishing and ensure that you leave nothing behind. Come to the Nature Center.
- 7:30 PM Wild Sounds You Might Hear Tonight! Enjoy this 40 minute program at the amphitheater.

Sunday, May 2

- 10 AM Help Feed Birds at the nature center
- 10:30 AM Fossil Hike. Take a 1-hour moderate hike beginning at the nature center, includes a fossil hunt!
- 2:00 PM Planetarium Program. Relax and enjoy this 40-minute night sky tour at the nature center.
- 3:00 PM Lusk Home Tour. Welcome to the grand opening weekend for the 2010 season! The 1-hour tour begins in the Home's cellar.



Upper Wabash Reservoirs (Salamonie, Mississinewa and Roush Lakes)

Saturday, May 1

- 9:00 AM* Stop by J. Edward Roush Lake's Kil-so-quah SRA campground interpretive shelter to taste a healthy Dutch oven "Turkey Sausage Monkey Bread" breakfast.
- 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM Open House at Salamonie Interpretive Center. Enjoy fresh fruit and 10% off all gift shop items in the Otter Run Tradin' Post both days. The center is located in Salamonie Reservoir's Lost Bridge West Recreation Area on Highway 105 in western Huntington County. There is a \$5 entrance fee (\$7 for out-of-state vehicles) on Saturday and all fees to enter the Lost Bridge West Recreation Area are waived Sunday, May 2.
- 3:00 PM* Meet at Salamonie's Lost Bridge West interpretive shelter for a taste of a pasta dish with a zesty twist.
- Time TBA Disc Golf Fun. Learn how to use the disc golf course with the Peru Disc Golf Club at Mississinewa Lake. Flying frisbee discs are even provided for your use. Don't miss this chance to try this different type of golf!



Sunday, May 2

- 9:00 AM* Mississinewa Lake guests can enjoy a sample taste of a “cowboy breakfast” as the Cast- Iron Butterflies flutter their magic into the cast iron pot. Meet at the campground gate and playground area.
- 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM Open House at Salamonie Interpretive Center. Enjoy fresh fruit and 10% off all gift shop items in the Otter Run Tradin’ Post both days. The center is located in Salamonie Reservoir’s Lost Bridge West Recreation Area on Highway 105 in western Huntington County. There is a \$5 entrance fee (\$7 for out-of-state vehicles) on Saturday and all fees to enter the Lost Bridge West Recreation Area are waived Sunday, May 2.

**Note: The “Cast-Iron Butterflies” invite you to visit each of the Upper Wabash Reservoirs for cast-iron cooking during the weekend – see above! You can compete in a scavenger hunts on one property or all three. These fun events can easily be completed on foot or bicycle by family teams of any age while the food is cooking. Bring a camera, if you have one, to use during one of the scavenger hunt challenges. Call ahead if you can, 260-468-2127 to help us plan the food purchase.*



Versailles State Park

Saturday, May 1

- 10:00 AM Recycling Walk and Scavenger Hunt. Take a walk and help us pick up and clean up a trail at the same time. Meet at the Oak Grove Parking Lot.

